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Department of State TELEGRAM

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SAIGON 14238

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 INRE-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-06 H-02 INR-06 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03
RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 AID-20 IO-11 UPW-01 SAL-02 SY-03
OPR-02 RSR-01 /101 W

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O R 031418Z SEP 71
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9561
INFO USDEL FRANCE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Izgub DATE 1/26/82 9/3/71
RDS☐or XD'☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
FOIA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

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SUBJ: KY BACKGROUNDER TO FOREIGN PRESS

1. SPEAKING MUCH MORE HARSHLY THAN EXPECTED AND UNRESTRAINED EVEN FOR KY, VICE PRESIDENT KY GAVE A BACKGROUNDER EVENING SEPTEMBER 3 TO A DOZEN MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN PRESS AT HIS TANSONNHUT VILLA. KY SPECIFIED THAT THERE WERE TO BE NO DIRECT QUOTES. FOLLOWING ARE QUOTES AND PARAPHRASES OF KY'S REMARKS AS PICKED UP BY THE VOA CORRESPONDENT FROM A PARTICIPANT AT THE SESSION.

2. DIRECT QUOTE I AM GOING TO DESTROY HIM (THIEU) AND ALL HIS CLIQUE. I AM A FIGHTER. I WILL DESTROY HIM EVEN IF I HAVE TO SACRIFICE MY LIFE TO DO IT. IF I BELIEVE THAT BY DESTROYING THIEU I AM REMOVING A DICTATOR, THEN I WILL DO IT, AND I CAN ASSURE YOU I AM CAPABLE OF IT. END QUOTE.

3. FOLLOWING IS PARAPHRASE: HE COULDN'T TOLERATE THE IDEA OF THIEU SERVING ANOTHER FOUR YEARS AS PRESIDENT. IT WAS HARD FOR HIM TO BELIEVE THE OCTOBER 3RD ELECTION WOULD TAKE PLACE: END PARAPHRASE.

4. DIRECT QUOTE I HAVE A FEELING THERE IS GREAT UNREST AMONG THE PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY AMONG THE ARMED FORCES. IT IS

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GREATER THAN BEFORE. MANY UNPREDICTABLE THINGS CAN HAPPEN. PERHAPS TONIGHT OR TOMORROW. WHEN I DO IT, ALL OF YOU LIVING NEAR THE PALACE MUST MOVE. AS FOR THE GENERALS HOW MANY OF THEM ARE REALLY LOYAL TO THIEU. THIEU BASICALLY IS A COWARD. I DON'T THINK HE'LL BE PRESIDENT AGAIN. END QUOTE BUNKER

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